Proposal to Privatise the Tourism Projects in some States

3547. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise the tourism projects in some States;

(b) if so, the details of such States;

(c) whether those State Governments have sought clearance from the Central Government for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The State Government do not require any clearance from the Department of Tourism, Government of India, to privatise State tourism projects.

Income tax evasion in film Industry

3548. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of raids conducted by team of Bombay Income Tax Department for violation of income tax evasion under Income Tax Act by the film stars during the last three years;

(b) whether according to latest estimates there is tax evasion/leakage to the extent of more than Rs. 50,000 crore per annum in the film industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether steps have been taken against defaulters to recover income tax arrears outstanding against them for more than three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Income Tax Department, Bombay has not conducted any search under the Income Tax Act on the film stars during the last three years.

(b) and (c) No such estimate is available.

(d) Appropriate action as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act is taken against the tax defaulters for recovery of arrears.

Import of Second Hand Machinery Through Calcutta Customs

3549. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of exporters who have imported second hand machineries through Calcutta customs during the past one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that Custom Authorities in Calcutta have been delaying disposal of cases pertaining to imports of second hand machinery and also imposing heavier duties thereon;

(c) whether delay in handling the cases has tremendously overrun the cost of second hand machines;

(d) whether importers of such machines are still unable to get these cleared due to consistent non cooperation of Calcutta customs; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The details and number of consignments of second hand machinery imported by 100% Export Oriented Units and units covered by Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme are enclosed at Annexure. *[See Appendix 178, Annexure No. 83]* There may be some other consignments imported by exporters who have not been identified as such.

(b) No delay has been reported regarding clearance of consignment of second hand machinery. Assessment is done at the prescribed rate of duty prevailing on the date of import and there has been no case of imposition of higher duties by customs authorities at Calcutta.

(c) Since there is no delay in the handling of these imports, the question of cost overrun does not arise.

(d) and (e) No instance of delay or non cooperation in the clearance of these machines has been brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Customs.

Binding effects of Schemes approved by BIFR

3550. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme sanctioned by BIFR as per Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 is binding on all parties concerned;

(b) if so, the course of action provided in the Act to be taken against the non-implementing party;

(c) the course of action for an aggrieved party which wants a review of the sanctioned scheme; and

(d) in case such a review does not result in any change in the sanctioned scheme, whether the escalation in the revival cost caused thereby would be compensated by the Banks/FIs and the promoter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Section 33 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) provides for penalty for violation of the provisions of SICA, including any scheme sanctioned thereunder.

(c) Under the provisions of Section 18(5) of SICA, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) may, on the recommendations of the Operating Agency (OA) on any proposal for modification of a sanctioned scheme which the affected party may make, review any sanctioned scheme and make such modifications as it may deem fit or may by order in writing direct the OA to prepare fresh scheme providing for such measures as the OA may consider necessary, besides, any party aggrieved by an order of the BIFR may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) under section 25 of SICA.

(d) BIFR has reported that the progress of implementation of revival schemes is periodically monitored and suitable directions are issued to all the concerned parties by it to ensure the speedy and successful implementation of revival schemes. It is not binding on banks/financial institutions to fund any additional cost of revival as sanctioned schemes generally incorporate a commitment on the part of the promoters to meet any unforseen expenses not specifically provided for.

Mess of the Scheme 'Monsoon Magic Offer' by Air India

3551. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that before launching the 'Monsoon Magic offer' of Air India the concerned department had not done any proper homework and study and therefore the scheme became a mess;

(b) whether it is a fact that the 31st, July deadline had to be extended to 30th September because the scheme had not picked up upto that date;

(c) what is the reason for not having published the offer in April and May, 1996 before the scheme started in June, 1996; and

(d) what action will be taken on the persons who are responsible for making a mess of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The scheme was finalised after detailed discussions in house as well as with the Travel Trade. The scheme has been extended upto 30th September, 1996 be-